

Key Ideas from the Keys to Quality Accreditation Project



Key Idea: **Reaccreditation** by Mary Cowger and Peggy Hayden,
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NAEYC recognizes that circumstances in programs change such as staff turnover, acquiring new resources, changes in children and families served, and so forth. In other words, the program's characteristics, which served as the basis for accreditation, do not stay the same.

As a result, NAEYC requires Reaccreditation every three (3) years on the program's 3-year accreditation anniversary date. This is key to ensuring that NAEYC accreditation reflects the program's "current" situation.

The form and instructions for applying for Reaccreditation are found on pages 279 and 293-94 of the *Guide to Accreditation* (white book). As noted on page 279, "the Reaccreditation process is similar to the initial accreditation process because programs seeking Reaccreditation will complete the three-step process again...The results of the *Reaccreditation self-study should be submitted to the Academy for validation at least 90 days prior to the expiration of accreditation.*"

Although programs will complete the self study and validation visit process again, it should not be as strenuous as the first time because your program will already be familiar with the process. Moreover, much of the work your program did for program improvements the first time, if maintained, will already be done. Also, if your program has been submitting annual reports to NAEYC as required in the *Guide to Accreditation* (pages 281-292), that will mean that you have been keeping your program up-to-date according to accreditation standards. As with the initial self study and validation, fees are involved with Reaccreditation. Because the NAEYC fee structure changes periodically, programs should contact NAEYC at 1/800-424-2460 about these fees, the Reaccreditation process, etc.

All of this is meant to be more than mere "paperwork". As you experienced with the initial accreditation process, the underpinning of these requirements exemplify NAEYC accreditation as *a process of continuous quality improvement*.

The Keys to Quality Accreditation Project strongly encourages renewal of accreditation after the three (3) year certification period. Because of funding limitations, sites may not apply to be a Keys to Quality site for Reaccreditation. That is, our project cannot provide funding for accreditation fees or individualized technical assistance to your site. However, you will continue to receive the Keys to Quality newsletter and various project mailings. You are also invited, and highly encouraged, to participate in Keys to Quality workshops, to visit coaching sites, to

network with sites going through the accreditation process and to access the excellent resources at CHILDSPAN.

For more information, contact the Keys to Quality Project by contacting RI Department of Education, Preschool Grant Coordinator, 401/222-4600 x 2408, e-mail: abcohen@ride.ri.net or CHILDSPAN at 401/729-0765, e-mail: RJCTS@intap.net.